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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ADVANCED BIO SURFACES, INC. [US/US]; 5909 Baker Road, Suite 550, Minnetonka, MN 55345 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FELT, Jeffrey, C. [US/US]; 4800 Lodge Lane, GREENWOOD, MN 55331 (US). RYDELL, Mark, A. [US/US]; 516 Turnpike Road, Golden Valley, MN 55416 (US). BUSCEMI, Paul, J.

[US/US]; 2310 Tamarack Drive, Long Lake, MN 55356 (US). ARSENYEV, Alexander [RU/US]; 1845 Turquoise Trail, Eagan, MN 55122 (US). PORTER, Christopher, H. [US/US]; 19756 Northeast 127th Place, Woodinville, WA 98072 (US). LYNCH, Laurie, E. [US/US]; 6970 Mariane Drive, Eden Prairie, MN 55346 (US). MORTENSON, Kristin, M. [US/US]; 4233 Standish Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407 (US).

(74) Agents: GOLDMAN, Philip, M. et al.; FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A., 4000 Pillsbury Center, 200 South Sixth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402-1425 (US).

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(54) Title: INTERPOSITIONAL ARTHROPLASTY SYSTEM AND METHOD

(57) Abstract: A method and system for the creation or modification of the wear surface of orthopedic joints, involving the preparation and use of one or more partially or fully preformed and procured components, adapted for insertion and placement into the body and at the joint site. In a preferred embodiment, component(s) can be partially cured and generally formed ex vivo and further and further formed in vivo at the joint site to enhance conformance and improve long term performance. In another embodiment, a preformed balloon or composite material can be inserted into the joint site and filled with a flowable biomaterial in situ to conform to the joint site. In yet another embodiment, the preformed component(s) can be fully cured and formed ex vivo and optionally further fitted and secured at the joint site. Preformed components can be sufficiently pliant to permit insertion through a minimally invasive portal, yet resilient enough to substantially assume, or tend towards, the desired form in vivo with additional forming there as needed.

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC(7) : A61F 2/38 US CL : 623/20.16 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC																				
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b> Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 623/20.16, 20.14, 20.32, 20.33, 23.51, 23.58, 23.61  Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched  Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)																				
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>																				
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.																		
X — Y	US 3,728,742 A (AVERILL et al) 24 April 1973, see whole document.	1, 2, 20, 21, 31, 32, 34 — 10-15, 29																		
A	US 6,206,927 B1 (FELL et al) 27 March 2001, see whole document.	1-45																		
A	US 5,108,404 A (SCHOLTEN et al) 28 April 1992, see whole document.	1-45																		
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.																				
<table border="0"><tr><td>* Special categories of cited documents:</td><td>"T"</td><td>later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</td></tr><tr><td>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</td><td>"X"</td><td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone</td></tr><tr><td>"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date</td><td>"Y"</td><td>document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art</td></tr><tr><td>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</td><td>"K"</td><td>document member of the same patent family</td></tr><tr><td>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</td><td></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</td><td></td><td></td></tr></table>			* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention	"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone	"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art	"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"K"	document member of the same patent family	"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means			"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
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Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer EDUARDO C. ROBERT <i>Dian</i> Telephone No. (703) 305-7333																		